

In airing "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal" so close to the election, Sinclair Broadcasting is both violating the spirit of their license to use the public airwaves, and making an illegal market value contribution to a political campaign.

Unlike the print media, the public owns Sinclair's method of distribution-- the television bandwidth which we license to them. They are required by that license to serve the public interest. In using that bandwidth as their personal megaphone, to the exclusion of other voices, in a blatant attempt to influence a national election is a violation of the license the people have given them.

They say it is news, however they do not balance it with another view, and by running it without commercial interruption, they are clearly distinguishing it from their regular news broadcasts.

Further, by donating this time without commercial interruption, they are making a definite market value contribution to a campaign, in clear violation of campaign laws. The amount they would normally charge for that time is defined on their advertising rate cards. Across 62 markets, for multiple hours, that would amount to hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars.

To use the public's airwaves to make their illegal contribution is a further violation of their license and the trust they are given by the people they license the airwaves from.